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# K-Means Clustering with Distributed Dimensions (Supplement)

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## 1. Proof of Theorem 4

*Proof.* It is easy to verify the communication cost, and thus we focus on the proof for the approximation ratio below.

Similar to the proof of Theorem 1, the grid  $G$  is rewritten as  $\{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$  where  $m = (k+z)^T$ , and for each  $g_j$ , its corresponding intersection  $\bigcap_{l=1}^T \mathcal{M}_{i_l}^l$  is rewritten as  $S_j$ . Meanwhile, we denote the index-set indicating the outliers obtained by our algorithm as  $Z$ . Furthermore, we denote the optimal  $k$  cluster centers as  $\{c_1^*, \dots, c_k^*\}$  and the index-set indicating the outliers in the optimal solution as  $Z_{opt}$ . We have the same definitions for  $\mathcal{N}(p_i)$  and  $\mathcal{N}^G(g_j)$  from the proof of Theorem 1 as well.

Also, we denote by  $\Gamma(Z) = \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z} \|p_i - \mathcal{N}^G(g_j)\|^2$  the cost of our solution, by  $\Gamma_{opt}(Z) = \sum_{i \in [n] \setminus Z} \|p_i - \mathcal{N}(p_i)\|^2$  the cost of the optimal solution. Let  $\sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z} \|p_i - g_j\|^2$  be  $\Gamma_a(Z)$ , and  $\sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} |S_j \setminus Z| \|g_j - \mathcal{N}^G(g_j)\|^2$  be  $\Gamma_b(Z)$ , respectively.

Using the similar manner of proving the inequality (2) in our paper, we have

$$\Gamma(Z) \leq \Gamma_a(Z) + \Gamma_b(Z) + 2\sqrt{\Gamma_a(Z)\Gamma_b(Z)}. \quad (1)$$

Similar to (3) and (4) in our paper, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_b(Z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} |S_j \setminus Z| \|g_j - \mathcal{N}^G(g_j)\|^2 \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z} \|g_j - \mathcal{N}^G(g_j)\|^2 \\ &\leq \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z_{opt}} \|g_j - \mathcal{N}(p_i)\|^2, \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

and each

$$\|g_j - \mathcal{N}(p_i)\|^2 \leq 2\|g_j - p_i\|^2 + 2\|p_i - \mathcal{N}(p_i)\|^2. \quad (3)$$

Note that the outliers  $Z$  are obtained by running the algorithm on the multi-set  $\{g_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq m\}$  while  $Z_{opt}$  is for the point-set  $P$ , and thus the inequality of (2) holds. Consequently,

$$\Gamma_b(Z) \leq 2\lambda(\Gamma_a(Z_{opt}) + \Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})). \quad (4)$$

Note  $\Gamma_a(Z_{opt})$  and  $\Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})$  are similar defined as  $\Gamma_a(Z)$  and  $\Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})$  but just replacing  $Z$  by  $Z_{opt}$ . Through (1) and (4), we know that the objective value obtained by our algorithm,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(Z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z} \|p_i - \mathcal{N}^G(g_j)\|^2 \\ &\leq \Gamma_a(Z) + 2\lambda(\Gamma_a(Z_{opt}) + \Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})) \\ &\quad + 2\sqrt{2\lambda\Gamma_a(Z)(\Gamma_a(Z_{opt}) + \Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt}))}. \quad (5) \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to know that both

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_a(Z) &= \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z} \|p_i - g_j\|^2 \\ \text{and} \quad \Gamma_a(Z_{opt}) &= \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j \setminus Z_{opt}} \|p_i - g_j\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

are no more than  $\sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j} \|g_j - p_i\|^2$ . Based on the same argument for (7) in our paper, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^{(k+z)^T} \sum_{i \in S_j} \|g_j - p_i\|^2 &\leq \lambda \sum_{i \in [n] \setminus Z_{opt}} \|p_i - \mathcal{N}(p_i)\|^2 \\ &= \lambda\Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt}), \quad (6) \end{aligned}$$

which implies both  $\Gamma_a(Z)$  and  $\Gamma_a(Z_{opt})$  are no more than  $\lambda\Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})$ . Overall, we have  $\Gamma(Z) \leq (2\lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 2\lambda\sqrt{2(\lambda+1)})\Gamma_{opt}(Z_{opt})$  from (5) which completes the proof.  $\square$

## 2. Lower Bound

In this section, we provide a lower bound of the communication cost for  $k$ -means problem with distributed dimensions. In fact, the lower bound even holds for the special case where the  $l$ -th party holds the  $l$ -th column. We denote by  $k$ -Means $_{n,T}$  the problem where there are  $T$  parties and  $n$  points in  $\mathbb{R}^T$ , and we want to compute  $k$ -means in the server. We prove a lower bound of  $\Omega(n \cdot T)$  for  $k$ -Means $_{n,T}$  (for achieving any finite approximation ratio) by a reduction from the set disjointness problem (Chattopadhyay & Pitassi, 2010). We first need the following two definitions.

**Definition 1.** (see e.g., (Chattopadhyay & Pitassi, 2010)) The set disjointness problem (DISJ $_{n,T}$ ): There are  $T$  parties, each holding a set  $P_l \subseteq [n]$ , and their goal is to determine whether the intersection  $\bigcap_{l=1}^T P_l$  is empty or not. An DISJ $_{n,T}$  instance can be equivalently encoded as a matrix  $P \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times T}$ , and the  $l$ -th party holds the  $l$ -th column (encoding its subset  $P_l$ ). The objective is to determine whether there is a row  $1^T$ .

**Definition 2.** Let  $\Pi$  be a protocol for solving a problem  $\mathcal{P}$ . The error of  $\Pi$  is given by  $\max_X \Pr[\text{the server outputs an incorrect answer following the input distribution } X]$ , where the max is over all problem instances the probability is taken over the private randomness of the server and the parties. We denote by  $CC_\delta(\mathcal{P})$  the minimum communication complexity of any randomized protocol  $\Pi$  that solves  $\mathcal{P}$  with error at most  $\delta$ .

We need the following lower bound for DISJ $_{n,T}$ , established by (Braverman et al., 2013).

**Lemma 1.** (Braverman et al., 2013) For any  $\delta > 0, n \geq 1$  and  $T = \Omega(\log n)$ , we have  $CC_\delta(\text{DISJ}_{n,T}) = \Omega(n \cdot T)$ .

**Theorem 1.** For any  $\delta > 0$  and  $T = \Theta(\log n)$ ,  $CC_\delta((2^T - 1)\text{-Means}_{n+2^T-1,T}) = \Omega(n \cdot T)$ .

*Proof.* We prove the theorem by a reduction from DISJ $_{n,T}$ . For any instance  $P \in \text{DISJ}_{n,T}$ , we construct an instance  $\hat{P} \in (2^T - 1)\text{-Means}_{n+2^T-1,T}$  as follows. For the first  $n$  rows, let  $\hat{p}_i^l = p_i^l$  for any  $1 \leq l \leq T, 1 \leq i \leq n$ . For the rest  $2^T - 1$  rows, we let the  $(n + j)$ -th row be  $j - 1$  (in binary) for  $1 \leq j \leq 2^T - 1$ . See Figure 1 for the construction.

Note that the last  $2^T - 1$  rows represent  $2^T - 1$  distinct points. Hence, the value of  $(2^T - 1)\text{-Means}_{n+2^T-1,T}$  for  $\hat{P}$  is not 0, if and only if the point  $1^T$  appears in  $P$ , which is equivalent to the fact that DISJ $_{n,T}$  for  $P$  is not empty. Thus, any  $\delta$ -error randomized protocol  $\Pi$  for  $(2^T - 1)\text{-Means}_{n+2^T-1,T}$  problem with finite approximation guarantee can be used as a  $\delta$ -error randomized protocol for DISJ $_{n,T}$  problem. We have  $CC_\delta((2^T - 1)\text{-Means}_{n+2^T-1,T}) \geq CC_\delta(\text{DISJ}_{n,T})$ . Then by Lemma 1, we prove the theorem.  $\square$

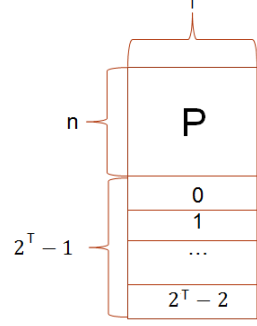


Figure 1. The construction of  $\hat{P}$

## References

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